



SPMHA AFFILIATION POLICY

Overview:

The purpose of affiliation for SPMHA teams is to supplement a team in case of illness, injury, or other forms of absenteeism on the team. Hockey Teams may affiliate players from a team within their Association in a lower Division or Category. These Players may participate in League, Exhibition, Tournament and Provincials;

A hockey team may affiliate:

- One entire hockey team from a lower division or category within SPMHA, **OR**
- Up to 19 players from a lower division or category within SPMHA,

An affiliated player must come from a lower tier, division or category as outlined in Hockey Alberta's Affiliation Grid below.



U18			
Tier 1	U15		
Tier 2	Tier 1	U13	U11
Tier 3		Tier 1	HADP
Tier 4			
Tier 5	Tier 2		
Tier 6	Tier 3		
	Tier 4	Tier 2	
	Tier 5	Tier 3	Tier 1
	Tier 6	Tier 4	Tier 2
		Tier 5	Tier 3
		Tier 6	Tier 4
			Tier 5



Affiliation Process:

SPMHA to SPMHA teams

1. The divisional director identifies players for affiliation to a higher tier or division team.
2. Affiliation must be declared and filed by the division director to their designated VP (Junior or Senior)
3. The divisional VP acknowledges receipt and identifies said players as approved.
4. The affiliation is reviewed & endorsed by the President of SPMHA. Affiliations may be accepted and endorsed by the President up to and including December 15 of the current Hockey Season.
5. Players are formally added to Teams in the Registry and identified as "Affiliates".

SPMHA to SPKAC teams

1. Through the SPKAC Affiliation Director, SPKAC Head Coaches will identify SPMHA players to request for affiliation.
2. Identified player lists will be sent to the appropriate SPMHA Division Director and Division VP for approval.
3. The Division VP & Division Director, in conjunction with the players' assigned coach, will indicate approval or rejection of affiliation request. Decisions regarding affiliation will be made in the best interest of the player's development over the desire to affiliate the best player.
4. If approved, the SPKAC Affiliation Director will prepare a Named Player Affiliation Agreement which requires the signature of the Player, the Player's Parent/Guardian, the Registered Team Designate, and Affiliating Team Designate.
5. Once the paperwork has been reviewed & endorsed by all parties, the affiliating Players are formally added to Teams in the Registry and identified as "Affiliates". Affiliations may be accepted and endorsed up to and including December 15 of the current Hockey Season.

****IF REQUESTED, TEAMS MUST BE ABLE TO PRESENT A COPY OF THEIR OFFICIAL HARD CARD WITH APPROVED AFFILIATES LISTED****

Important: Any Player participating in any game as an Affiliated Player without proper approval or registration in the Hockey Canada Registry on said team as an "affiliate" shall be considered an Ineligible Player and team officials subject to discipline in accordance with Hockey Alberta Minor Regulations.

All affiliations terminate at the end of the current hockey season.



Using Affiliate Players:

Before an affiliate player can play a game or practice for a team, **request notification must be given to the affiliate player's head coach or designate each and every time the player is needed. This must happen before approaching the player or their family.**

If a controversy over a player exists, try to sort out the matter on a team level first. If the matter is still not resolved, consult with your Divisional Director. The affiliation will not be recognized until the matter can be resolved.

Key Points:

- The requested player must be in good standing with his team and must not be serving a suspension. Please remember that affiliation is a privilege. Head coaches have the authority to deny affiliation for players displaying negative, undisciplined, or bad behaviour on their team.
- The team with the game should always take priority over a practice.
- If the requested player's team has a game on the same day or time as the affiliate team, preference should be given to the primary team. Exceptions to this rule include:
 - league games over exhibition games
 - playoff or provincial games over regular season games
 - games deemed critical to the benefit of the team
 - teams requiring a key position filled (goaltender)
 - to enable a minimum of 12 skaters.
- Ultimately the decision should be left up to the player & his/her parents and no negative repercussions imposed.
- U7 players are not permitted to be used as affiliates.

Games:

The team using the affiliate player is required to identify the player on the **electronic** game sheet as an **"AP" (Affiliate Player)**.

Affiliates may be used for league, playoffs, provincial championships, exhibition, and tournament games.

The maximum number of players, including affiliate players, which will be allowed to be shown on any official game sheet must not exceed the total number of players registered on the team.

Teams can replace injured players and/or absent players with affiliated players to bring the team up to their roster size. The team roster size will be reduced by one for each player that is under a suspension.



Numbers of Games:

A registered player is considered to have participated in the game when their name appears on the official game report, except in the case of an alternate goalkeeper. Alternate goalkeepers are considered to have participated in the game when they *actually play*. Note this participation on the official game report.

Providing affiliation has been properly filed, a player may play **a maximum of 10 games** with the hockey team to which they are affiliated. **This excludes exhibition and tournament games.**

If a player plays more than 10 games with the hockey team to which they are affiliated, they are considered ineligible and subject to Hockey Alberta rules. However, if the player's registered team completes its regular season and playoffs before the player's affiliated team, the player may affiliate an unlimited number of times.

Special Circumstances:

A. U9 to U9 Affiliation

The principle of affiliation to the U9 Division is to provide for replacement players when regular team players are sick, injured or otherwise unavailable. The following rules will apply:

- a) Affiliated players will only be allowed in situations where registered team players are unavailable to the team because of: (i) sickness; (ii) injuries; (iii) inadequate number of registered team players to play a game.
- b) When a Team has less than fourteen (14) registered players Affiliated Players may be used to increase the number of players on a game sheet to a maximum of twelve (18) players (i.e. - when Affiliated Players are used in a game the maximum number of players allowed to be placed on a game sheet is eighteen (18)). This maximum number of eighteen (18) includes the total of both registered team players and affiliated players.
- c) U9 players in the same tier will be designated on the same Hockey Alberta Team Sheet, regardless of the number of teams within the tier. This allows for lateral movement. Players on team sheets in any tier, other than the top tier, will be designated as affiliate players on the team sheet of a team that is one tier higher than their tier at the start of the season. Re-tiering at any point in the season will not impact these designations. Affiliations must be from the same or lower tier.

Note: that if an individual player on a team is affiliated to a U11 or higher team in accordance with HA regulations, the team with which that player is registered may not enter into a team to team affiliation agreement with any team.



- d) A Player Affiliated to or within the U9 division may not play **more than five (5) games** with the affiliated team in the current hockey season, excluding exhibition and tournament games. Note: after five (5) games, such player will be an ineligible player and HA rules respecting playing an ineligible player will be enforced

U9 aged players affiliated to a U11 team may not play **more than 10 games** with the affiliated team in the current hockey season, excluding exhibition and tournament games.

B. Division to Division Affiliation:

If properly filed, U11 aged players may be affiliated to the U13 division with full affiliation privileges (games & practices). U13 goaltenders may be affiliated to a U15 team with full affiliation privileges. Second year U13 players may be affiliated to a U15 team once permission from parents is received.

C. Substitute Goaltender:

A substitute goaltender from another hockey team of equal or lower division or category may be permitted if medical evidence or extenuating circumstances show that a hockey team requires a replacement goaltender. You must contact your divisional director as soon as you become aware of the need for a substitute goaltender. Please review Hockey Alberta Substitute Goaltender Criteria and Application.

Approved games played as a substitute goaltender do not count as affiliate games played.

D. Minor Hockey Week:

Other than for goaltenders, affiliate players may not be used in Minor Hockey Week games.

E. U7 Program.

There is no affiliation within the U7 Division.

IF IN DOUBT, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR DIVISION DIRECTOR!